



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2011

No. 155

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2011, at 11 a.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2011

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, hope of compassion and love, all that is within us praise and magnify Your holy name. Today, incline the ears of our Senators to hear Your voice as You fill them with Your power. Bless all who work on Capitol Hill, inspiring them with Your spirit and encouraging them with Your presence. May Your grace give them each day a dignified sense of renewal.

Lord, make us all sensitive to understand our mutual needs and the importance of working in harmony and respect one for the other.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, October 17, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in morning business until 4 p.m. today. Following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 2112, which is the vehicle for the Agriculture, Commerce-State-Justice, and Transportation appropriations bills. At 5:15 the Senate will be in executive session to consider the nomination of Cathy Bisson to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania. At 5:30 there will be a vote on confirmation of that nomination. At 4 o'clock, as indicated here, we are going to move to the appropriations bills. I understand there are a

number of amendments on both sides that are available to be offered. I hope Senators will come and offer them as quickly as possible. We will try to work out time agreements. I am anxious to set up some votes before the weekly party caucuses tomorrow.

### EDUCATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Bart Giamatti was a well-rounded man. He was the president of the Yale University and also Commissioner of Major League Baseball. He once called education the "heart of a civil society." But he also said the heart of education is the act of teaching.

The commitment to educate the children of this Nation is our greatest investment in our collective future. It is the key to keeping the American dream alive and crucial to staying competitive in a global economy. Teachers are the stewards of that investment. But the terrible recession that has rocked our national economy has threatened their ability to give our children the education they deserve.

Since 2008, State and local budget cuts have cost this country 300,000 education jobs. Nearly 200,000 of those jobs were lost in the last year alone. Schools are feeling the pinch of a larger class size, especially at the elementary and middle school levels. The number of children in an elementary school classroom has a direct correlation to student achievement and even college graduation rates.

Districts also shortened schooldays, school years, and eliminated summer

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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